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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCHAR 01639 191224Z

50
ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03

SAJ-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 STR-08 SCI-06 AID-20 IO-14

TRSE-00 NEA-10 /153 W
---------- 118414
R 191210Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8430
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 1639

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, BEXP, RO
SUBJECT: GRAIN CONDITIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE - ROMANIA

REF: STATE 078157; BUCHAREST 1366 (NOTAL09

1. WE ESTIMATE TOTAL GRAIN AREA FOR 73/74 SEASON AT 6.3 MILLION HECTARES, WHEAT AT 2.4 MILLION HECTARES.

2. SCATTERED PRECIPITATION, BOTH RAIN AND SNOW, COVERED MOST AREAS IN
ROMANIA BETWEEN APRIL 13 AND APRIL 19 ENDING LONG SPRING DRY PERIOD. ACCORDING TO MINISTRY AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS, BETWEEN 10 AND 28 LITRES OF MOISTURE PER SQUARE METER FELL IN DIFFERENT ZONES OF COUNTRY, WITH HEAVIEST PRECIPITATION IN MOUNTAINOUS AND NON-AGRICULTURAL AREAS. ROMANIAN OFFICIALS DO NOT EXPECT THAT SURFACE WATER FROM THIS RECENT RAINFALL WILL SOAK DOWN TO REACH EXTREMELY LOW GROUND WATER LEVEL, ESTIMATED IN SOME AREAS TO LIE ONE METERBELOW SURFACE. GOR OFFICIALS ALSO CONCERNED THAT WINDS PREDICTED IN NEXT FEW DAYS WILL EVAPORATE MUCH OF SURFACE WATER AND REDUCE EVEN FURTHER THE EFFECTS OF THIS RECENT PRECIPITATION.
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HEAVY SNOWS IN MOUNTAINOUS AREAS, HOWEVER, SHOULD MELT WITHIN

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NEXT WEEK OR SO PROBABLY RAISING GROUND WATER LEVEL SOMEWHAT.
GREATEST IMMEDIATE CONCERN OF ROMANIAN OFFICIALS IS FOR WHEAT
CROP WHICH HAS BEEN ADVERSELY AFFECTED SINCE AUTUMN WHEN, DESPITE
HEAVIER SEEDING, SUBSEQUENT DRY CONDITIONS PREVENTED GERMINATION
OF SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF SOWN SEEDS. RAINS TERMINATED APRIL 19,
AND THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE PREDICTION FOR FURTHER PRECIPITATION.
BARNES

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NNN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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